

Distinguished members of the Health Appropriations Subcommittee:

My name is Emily Kaliney; I live in Farmington. I am a supporter of CT Against Gun Violence.

I am testifying in support of the \$2.5 million included in the Governor's budget on Line T1449 for the Department of Public Health to fund gun violence intervention grants in FY2024, and the \$400,000 on Line 274 for operational expenses each year in FY2024 and FY2025.

But given the magnitude of the crisis of gun violence, especially in Connecticut's urban centers, I believe the grant appropriation needs to be larger, at \$10 million in each year of the fiscal 2024-25 budget.

This issue matters to me because I want to live a life in which I can be unafraid of gun violence. I don't want to be scared that my children will encounter gun violence at school or that my husband will encounter it at work. I need my legislators to take action to keep myself, my family, my neighbors and all of CT safe.

Solutions for reducing gun violence need to go beyond strong gun laws and law enforcement which Connecticut has. Those are necessary but not sufficient to de-escalate conflict and break cycles of violence that too often involve guns. Connecticut needs to invest in public health approaches to address what is a public health crisis. We need to fund locally-based programs that focus on preventing and intervening where the violence is highest, similar to how we prevent the spread of other diseases.

Thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony. I appreciate the work you do on my behalf and on behalf of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Emily Kaliney

Farmington, CT